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No. 3

WEEKLY REPORT

July 28, 2017

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. The migration of sockeye through both marine and Fraser River assessment areas has been tracking at levels expected consistent with the lower range of the pre-season forecast abundance distribution unless marine arrival timing is significantly later than expected. Sockeye catches in both areas have been at levels less than observed on past cycle years at this time of year.

Run Status

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 2% Early Stuart, 30% Early Summer-run, 67% Summer-run, which mostly consists of Late Stuart/Stellako and Chilko fish, and 1% Late-run sockeye.

The estimated diversion rate of sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait has increased to 32% based on recent purse seine and gill net test fishery catches in the two approach areas.

Management Groups

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is nearing completion. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 27 is 43,900 fish.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Fraser River Panel adopted an in-season estimate at the p25 forecast level of 166,000 Early Summer-run as an interim management measure. As a result, there is no International total allowable catch (TAC) for this management group. Within the Early Summer-run aggregate, the Chilliwack, Nadina, and Pitt, which are the larger components of the Early Summer-run group, are all showing poor levels of return to date and are tracking at levels near the p10 forecast. Over the last few days, daily abundances of the Early Summer-run continued to track well below the p25 forecast. If this pattern continues, the Panel is expected to further reduce the run size at next Tuesday's meeting to 95,000 which is the p10 forecast level. The estimated escapement of Early Summer run sockeye past Mission through July 27 is 25,300 fish.

Summer-run sockeye are now the dominant management group in marine area samples, but daily abundance levels are much less than expected, based on the pre-season forecast. Given the warm ocean conditions encountered in 2015 by the juveniles expected to make up the bulk of the 2017 return, the pre-season forecast document stated: "Thus the overall Summer-run return may more closely align with the 25%, rather than the 50% probability level of the forecast." Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in mid-August, after their expected peak migration through marine areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 27 is 11,400 fish.

Environmental Update

On July 27, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,280cms, which is approximately 29% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 27 was 18.6°C, which is 0.7°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to above average values for the time of year, while discharge is forecast to decrease to below 2,947cms by the end of the 10 days forecast period.

Escapement Update

DFO has released their pre-season plan for spawning ground assessments (see <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/docs/Escapement/sockeye-rouge-eng.html>). Brief summaries of DFO's in-season reports on spawning ground arrivals will be provided in this section beginning August 3rd.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

The Panel announced the following regulations for commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 1st. Weekly reports in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission every Friday during the in-season management period to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run. Weekly reports and regulatory announcements can be obtained via <http://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information> or by subscribing to our eNews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>. Regulations and resources for fishing schedules, test fishing catch and DFO's environmental watch program can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulations & Resources

| Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources | Phone Number/ Website Links |
|--|---|
| United States fishing schedules (Treaty Indian) | 1-800-562-6142 |
| United States fishing schedules (Non-Indian) | 1-800-662-9825 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from the lower B.C. mainland) | 604-666-2828 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from outside the lower B.C. mainland) | 1-866-431-3474 |
| PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message) | 604-666-8200 http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm . |
| DFO's Environmental Watch program | http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html |

Note: For species other than sockeye salmon consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

Contacts

Canada: Jennifer Nener, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Lorraine Loomis, Vice-chair, Fraser River Panel

2017 Run status of Fraser sockeye

Date: Jul. 28, 2017

| Week of: Jul. 23 - Jul. 29, 2017 | Sockeye | | | | Pink | |
|--|------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Management Group | | | | Total Fraser | Total Fraser |
| | E.Stuart | E.Summer | Summer | Late | | |
| Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) | 43,900 | 25,300 | 11,400 | 0 | 80,600 | 0 |
| Catch downstream of Mission | 200 | 400 | 800 | 0 | 1,400 | 0 |
| Accounted run-to-date | 44,100 | 25,700 | 12,200 | 0 | 82,000 | 0 |
| Run size adopted in-season¹ | 50,000 | 166,000 | na | na | na | na |
| Run size forecasted pre-season | 99,000 | 343,000 | 3,407,000 | 583,000 | 4,432,000 | 8,693,000 |
| Area 20 timing adopted in-season | 3/Jul | na | na | na | | na |
| Area 20 timing expected pre-season | 1/Jul | 20/Jul | 6/Aug | 14/Aug | | 28/Aug |

¹ Run sizes are usually not adopted until after the peak of the run has passed through marine test fishery areas in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits.

2017 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 28, 2017

| Week of: Jul. 23 - Jul. 29, 2017 | | Sockeye | | Pink | |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| | | Total | Fraser | Total | Fraser |
| Canada | | 420 | 420 | 30 | 0 |
| Commercial | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | B Purse Seine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | D Gillnet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | E Gillnet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | F Troll | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | G Troll | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | H Troll | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| First Nations | | 420 | 420 | 30 | 0 |
| | Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC) | 420 | 420 | 30 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 420 | 420 | 0 | 0 |
| | Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recreational | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United States | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commercial | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Treaty Indian (TI) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | All Citizen (AC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All Citizen Recreational | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alaska * | | na | na | na | na |
| Panel-approved Test Fisheries | | 1,780 | 1,470 | 350 | 10 |
| Panel Waters | | 1,300 | 1,060 | 200 | 10 |
| Non-Panel Waters | | 470 | 420 | 150 | 0 |
| Total | | 2,190 | 1,890 | 380 | 10 |

* Recent LFA Recreational catches may be projected based on a scalar applied to Mission Escapement.

** Alaska catch is processed post-season and so is unavailable in-season.